

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02636 131057Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-10

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R 130952Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3115

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 2636

DEPT PASS USDA/FAS/BROWN

BELGRADE FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BEXP, RO

SUBJ: CONTINUING RAINS CREATE DIFFICULTIES IN AGRICULTURE

REF: BUCH 2275

1. THE RAINS THAT TRADITIONALLY BEGIN TO LET UP AT THE
END OF MAY HAVE FALLEN UNABATED INTO JUNE THIS YEAR, HAVING
ALREADY SURPASSED NORMAL LEVELS FOR THIS MONTH. THE PRECIPITATION
HAS BEEN WELL-RECEIVED IN DOBROGEA, WHERE AS USUAL THE FIRST
EFFECTS OF DROUGHT WERE BEGINNING TO BE FELT. THE DEVELOPMENT
WAS HOWEVER UNSOUGHT IN OTHER AREAS, ESPECIALLY IN OLTENIA
AND NORTHERN MOLDAVIA WHERE 50-75 LITERS OF RAIN PER SQUARE
METER WERE REGISTERED IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE AFTER HAVING
TAKEN IN MORE THAN 100 LITERS PER SQ. M. DURING MAY.

2. UNFAVORABLE EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURE HAVE NOT YET BEEN
EXPERIENCED. ADDITIONAL WORK HAS BEEN CAUSED, WITHOUT ANY
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 02636 131057Z

DOUBT. ARTICLES IN THE PRESS HAVE URGED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

TO ACCOMPLISH HOEING AND WEEDING AT THE EARLIEST DATE, POINTING OUT THAT PLANTING TOOK PLACE EARLY THIS YEAR AND THAT, WHEREAS CROPS RESPOND TO MOSITURE, WEEDS DO EVEN BETTER AND GRADUALLY USURP THE RIGHTS TO WATER OF PLANTED SPECIES. MANUAL OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CITED AS MORE THAN EVER IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT IN MAY AREAS CANNOT NEGOTIATE THE SOFTENED GROUND. AN APPEAL TO PRIDE IS REFLECTED IN STATEMENTS THAT FARMERS HAVE ALWAYS FACED ADVERSITY AND TURNED IT TO ADVANTAGE, SUCH ENCOURAGEMENT BEING ADDRESSED ALIKE TO FLOOD-CONTROL GROUPS IN TRANSYLVANIA AND TO WEEDING TEAMS IN OLTEANIA.

3. ACCORDING TO A MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL (VASILIU), NO THREAT IS AS YET PRESENTED TO THE BOUNTIFUL HARVEST THAT HAS BEEN PREDICTED. CORN IS TOO GOING TO BE AFFECTED AS OF NOW. WHEAT STILL LOOKS PROMISING ALTHOUGH BEATEN TO THE GROUND IN SOME PLACES BY RAIN AND WIND (A SEVERE WINDSTORM STRUCK THE COUNTRY ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 5). THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE, HOWEVER, IN RUNNING OFF STANDING WATER BEFORE WHEAT HARVESTING BEGINS TOWARD THE END OF THE MONTH. THE CROP MOST IN DANGER IS BARLEY, NEEDED AS FODDER FOR THE COUNTRY'S GROWING LIVESTOCK HOLDINGS. BARLEY IS IN MANY PLACES READY FOR HARVESTING NOW, YET A GOOD NUMBER OF FIELDS ARE INACCESSIBLE TO MACHINERY BECAUSE OF SOFT TERRAIN.

4. OFFICIALS ARE KEEPING THEIR FINGERS CROSSED WHILE HOPING FOR THE SUN TO BREAK THROUGH. THEY ARE APT TO NOTE THAT JUNE IS A CAPRICIOUS MONTH IN ROMANIA AND THAT AT ANY RATE MOISTURE UNLIKE DROUGHT CAN BE COPEDE WITH THROUGH DILIGENT WORK. BUT WHILE NOT INVOKING THE NAME OF PROVIDENCE, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD APPRECIATE THE BENEFICENCE OF OUTSIDE FORCES IN THE COMING MONTH.

SCISSORS

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